

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed simultaneously with this document. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.114, the RCE requests entry of the August 29 amendment. This amendment should be subsequently entered after the August 29 amendment have been entered.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 33 and 34 are added.

Applicants maintain all of the arguments set forth in the August 29 response. Additionally, U.S. Patent 6,069,648 to Suso does not teach or suggest the features of dependent claims 33 or 34. See, for example, Suso's FIGs. 1a-1c and 2.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-34 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

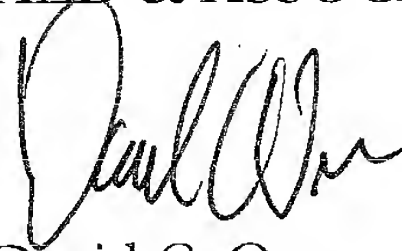
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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